

## WAR ON TERRORISM NEWS

- ➔ **Largest airdrop since** Panama; long-distance C-17 mission drops 1,000 "Sky Soldiers" to open northern Iraqi front. ([AF](#))
- ➔ **Top general disappointed** by some wartime reports; second-guessing battle plan affects troop morale. ([DoD](#))
- ➔ **Unmanned drone hovers** over battlefield; gives real-time intelligence to help defeat Iraqi regime. ([Wash Times](#))
- ➔ **Far-flung bombers unite** for historic Baghdad strike. ([AF](#))
- ➔ **USAF combat controllers, pilots** help rescue POW. ([CNN](#))
- ➔ **U.S. troops won't fight** dirty, says Air Force's top uniformed lawyer. ([Stars & Stripes](#))
- ➔ **Joint Chiefs vice chairman calls on Iraqi** commanders to disobey illegal and immoral orders. ([DoD](#))
- ➔ **Three jumbo jets leave** East Coast weekly to keep mail flowing to our fighting forces. ([StL Post-Dispatch](#))
- ➔ **Healthy troops, medical** advances obvious in field. ([AF](#))

## NEWS ABOUT THE MILITARY

- **Military transportation chief:** System performing well for war in Iraq, but needs changes ([Nat Def Mag](#))
- **USAF seeks \$2.2 billion** in science, technology funding to keep battlefield edge. ([AF](#))
- **Air Force having difficulty** recruiting, retaining scientists and engineers. ([AF](#))
- **Caring for families:** Some returning airmen receive six-month break from deployment. ([AF](#))



Maintainers with the 410th Air Expeditionary Wing test avionics equipment on an F-16 Falcon to prepare it for take-off. The 410th flies missions from a forward-deployed location to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. (*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel A. Park*)

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

As a critical part of the air component attacking the Iraqi regime, **the U.S. Air Force has been heavily engaged in combat operations and combat support missions.**

Nearly 800 USAF aircraft of all types are flying missions 24 hours a day across every square foot of Iraq. **In the first 13 days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, USAF airmen:**

- Conducted more than 5,000 satellite contacts to enable precise coalition air and space operations throughout the region
- Flew nearly 12,000 (60 percent) of total sorties
- Flew 100 percent of the 4,000 airlift sorties, moving almost 27,000 tons of cargo and 32,000 passengers
- Flew more than 2,500 (70 percent) of total refueling sorties, offloading 107 million pounds (16 million gallons) of fuel to aircraft of every coalition member
- Flew nearly 200 (86 percent) of total combat search and rescue sorties
- Flew nearly 500 (one-third) of total command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C2ISR) sorties
- Flew nearly 100 Predator and Global Hawk surveillance, reconnaissance and strike sorties
- Flew nearly 5,000 (50 percent) of total strike and counterair sorties

## SENIOR LEADERS ARE SAYING ...

- Thanks to countless Red Flags, Blue Flags and Cope Thunders (competitions), 12 years of real-world training in Northern Watch and Southern Watch, plus Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and countless other operations, **this is the most combat-experienced force in the history** of combat aviation. ([Coalition Forces Air Component Commander](#), March '03)

## OF INTEREST

- **MTV.com site spotlights** troops in the field; shares personal details from the war front. ([MTV](#))
- **Bombs and Missiles:** Discover what America's premier aerospace force is bringing to the fight in Iraq. ([Bombs, Missiles](#))
- **Financial difficulties eased** for deployed members through the Relief Act of 1940. ([AF](#))
- **Global War on Terrorism:** See what more than 70 nations are doing to defeat terrorism. ([U.S. Central Command](#))
- **Raised as an East German**, she's now an American airman. ([AF](#))